IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A wallcovering assembly, comprising:

a base material,

at least one ceramic coating comprising ceramic particles selected from the group consisting of oxides of metals, oxides of semimetals, nitrides of metals, nitrides of semimetals, borides of metals, borides of semimetals, carbides of metals and carbides of semimetals embedded in a matrix consisting of a silicon network linked together by Si-O-Si bridges,

and one or more ceramic interlayers present between the base material and the ceramic coating ~~layer~~,

wherein the ceramic interlayer contains particles of an inorganic component comprising essentially at least one component selected from the group consisting of at least one metal, at least one semimetal and at least one mixed metal with at least one element of the third to seventh main group that are bonded by at least one inorganic adhesive to each other and to the layer present underneath the ceramic interlayer, and

wherein at least one of the ceramic coating and the ceramic interlayer comprise an inorganic-organic silicon network including an organic component covalently bonded between the Si atoms and wherein the organic component has a hydroxyl group and an amine group.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The wallcovering assembly of claim 1, wherein the base material is a nonwoven, a woven, a formed-loop knit, a felt, a film, a single- or multi-layered paper, or a wallpaper.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The wallcovering assembly of claim 1, wherein the base material is a sheetlike structure comprising predominantly cellulose fibers, polymeric fibers, glass fibers, metal fibers or ceramic fibers, or is a polymeric film.

Claims 4-5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The wallcovering assembly according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic coating comprises elementary particles having an average particle size from 1 nm to 1 μm.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The wallcovering assembly according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic coating comprises particles of oxides of the elements Al, Zr, Si, Ti, Ce or Fe.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The wallcovering assembly of claim 1, wherein the ceramic coating comprises POSS clusters or hydrophobicized silicas as particles.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The wallcovering assembly of claim 1, wherein the ceramic coating is less than 100 μm in thickness.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The wallcovering assembly of claim 1, wherein the ceramic coating is transparent to electromagnetic radiation having a wavelength in the region of visible light.

Claims 11-12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The wallcovering assembly of claim 1, wherein the ceramic interlayer comprises particles of oxides selected from the group consisting of $Al_2O_3$, $ZrO_2$, $TiO_2$ and $SiO_2$ having an average particle size from 200 nm to 5 μm, and a silicon network,

wherein the silicon of the network is bonded via oxygen atoms to the oxides of the ceramic coating, via organic radicals to the layer underneath the ceramic coating and via at least one chain of carbon atoms to a further silicon.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The wallcovering assembly of claim 1, further comprising an interlayer that contains one or more components selected from adhesives, adhesion promoters, binders, dyes and pigments.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The wallcovering assembly of claim 1, wherein the wallcovering assembly is flexible and can be wound up into a roll.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): A process for producing a wallcovering assembly of claim 1, comprising producing a final ceramic coating by a suspension comprising ceramic particles suspended in a polymeric sol produced by mixing at least one silane with an alcohol and an acid being applied to a base material after application of one or more ceramic interlayers and subsequently solidified, wherein

the ceramic interlayer is applied by applying and solidifying a suspension comprising particles of an inorganic component suspended in a sol to the base material or further in

ceramic interlayers optionally presented and subsequently solidifying the suspension on and optionally in the base material or the further ceramic layer optionally present, and

the suspension used for producing the ceramic interlayer comprises at least one sol that acts as an inorganic adhesive and comprises at least particles of an inorganic component comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of at least one metal, at least one semimetal, and at least one mixed metal with at least one element of the third to seventh main group.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The process of claim 16, wherein the ceramic particles are oxides of metals, oxides of semimetals, carbides of metals, carbides of semimetals, nitrides of metals, nitrides of semimetals, borides of metals and borides of semimetals.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): The process of claim 16, wherein the suspension is solidified by heating when the sol is based on tetraethoxysilane (TEOS), 3-glycidyloxytrimethoxysilane (GLYMO) and/or 3-glycidyloxytriethoxysilane (GLYEO) and/or 3-methacryloyloxy-propyltrimethoxysilane (MEMO).

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): The process of claim 18, wherein the suspension comprises di- or polyols.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The process of claim 18, wherein the suspension is produced in two steps, a first step of initially producing a mixture of first silane, alcohol and acid, into which mixture the particles are stirred, and a second step of adding to this first component a further silane and/or a diol or polyol as a second component before the suspension is heated.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): The process of claim 20, wherein the suspension is produced in two steps, a first step of initially producing a mixture of GLYEO, alcohol and acid, into which mixture the particles are stirred, and a second step of this first component having added to it AMEO and/or bisphenol A as a second component before the suspension is heated.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): The process of claim 18, wherein the heating takes 1 second to 2 hours at temperatures from 50 to 650°C.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): The process of claim 16, wherein the suspension is solidified by treatment with UV rays when the sol is based on methacryloyloxypropyltrimethoxysilane (MEMO).

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): The process of claim 16, further comprising applying an interlayer containing an adhesive, an adhesion promoter, a dye, printing inks or a binder.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn): The process of claim 16, wherein the individual layers are applied to the base material in a roll-to-roll process.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The wallcovering assembly of claim 1, wherein both the ceramic coating and the ceramic interlayer comprise an inorganic-organic silicon network including an organic component covalently bonded between two Si atoms and having a hydroxy group and an amine group.

Claim 27 (New): A wallcovering assembly, comprising:

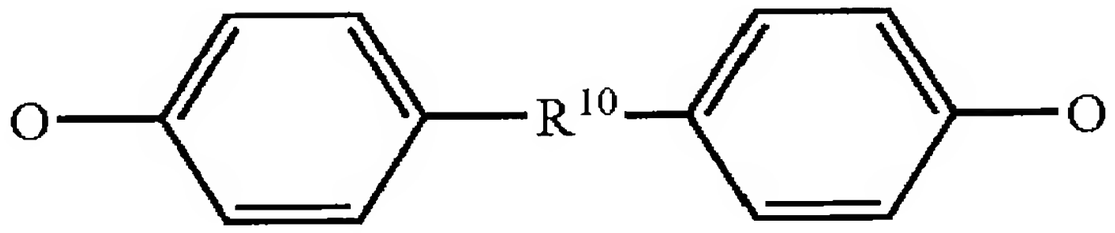
a base material,

at least one ceramic coating comprising ceramic particles selected from the group consisting of oxides of metals, oxides of semimetals, nitrides of metals, nitrides of semimetals, borides of metals, borides of semimetals, carbides of metals and carbides of semimetals embedded in a matrix consisting of a silicon network linked together by Si-O-Si bridges,

and one or more ceramic interlayers present between the base material and the ceramic layer,

wherein the ceramic interlayer contains particles of an inorganic component comprising essentially at least one component selected from the group consisting of at least one metal, at least one semimetal and at least one mixed metal with at least one element of the third to seventh main group that are bonded by at least one inorganic adhesive to each other and to the layer present underneath the ceramic interlayer, and

wherein at least one of the ceramic coating and the ceramic interlayer comprise an inorganic-organic silicon network including an organic component covalently bonded between the Si atoms and wherein the organic component has a hydroxyl group and an amine group and a structural unit of the following formula (II):



(II)

wherein $R^{10}$ is an organic radical.

Claim 28 (New): The wallcovering assembly of claim 27, wherein the ceramic coating comprises POSS clusters or hydrophobicized silicas as particles.

Claim 29 (New): The wallcovering assembly of claim 27, wherein the ceramic coating is transparent to electromagnetic radiation having a wavelength in the region of visible light.

Claim 30 (New): The wallcovering assembly of claim 27, wherein the ceramic interlayer comprises particles of oxides selected from the group consisting of $Al_2O_3$, $ZrO_2$, $TiO_2$ and $SiO_2$ having an average particle size from 200 nm to 5 μm, and a silicon network, wherein the silicon of the network is bonded via oxygen atoms to the oxides of the ceramic coating, via organic radicals to the layer underneath the ceramic coating and via at least one chain of carbon atoms to a further silicon.

Claim 31 (New): The wallcovering assembly of claim 27, wherein $R^{10}$ is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, aryl, acyl or alkylaryl radical.

Claim 32 (New): The wallcovering assembly of claim 27, wherein $R^{10}$ is a dimethylmethylene radical.

Claim 33 (New): The wallcovering assembly of claim 1, which consists of the base material, the ceramic coating and the ceramic interlayer.

Claim 34 (New): The wallcovering assembly of claim 27, which consists of the base material, the ceramic coating and the ceramic interlayer.